

SOUTH AFRICA

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CIA

1. South Africa is emerging as a potential transshipment area for illicit narcotics from Southwest Asia and South America to Europe and the United States. [REDACTED] international trafficking operations control heroin and cocaine flows through Cape Town as well as a large percentage of marijuana exports to European markets, particularly the United Kingdom. Additional [REDACTED] evidence suggests that cocaine traffickers in South Africa are selling discounted trial-size "lines" of cocaine to expand their market. Similarly, smuggling groups in adjoining countries are supplementing domestically grown marijuana supplies and moving large quantities of mandrax (methaqualone) -- a synthetic depressant imported primarily from India -- into South Africa to support a growing abuser population. Currently, we have no information on illicit opium poppy and coca production. [REDACTED] reporting confirms the presence of commercial-sized marijuana fields in the Eastern region of South Africa and warns of South Africa's hashish production potential.
2. Official concern over South Africa's increased involvement in the illicit narcotics business and growing drug abuse problem will most likely result in continued governmental support for drug prevention programs, interdiction operations, and joint marijuana eradication efforts with Swaziland. Despite the relative lack of international assistance, the South African government devotes considerable resources to combat illicit drug use, trafficking and related criminal activities.
3. Although still unconfirmed, [REDACTED] intimated that anti-government insurgent groups raised funds through illicit narcotic activities. ANC leaders are also reportedly concerned about security personnel's unsanctioned involvement in smuggling synthetic drugs to South Africa and marijuana and alcohol abuse among ANC members. These activities are most likely due to inactivity in southern African guerrilla camps.

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